

Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) and Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

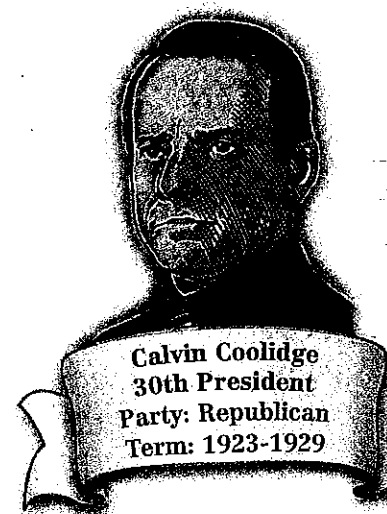
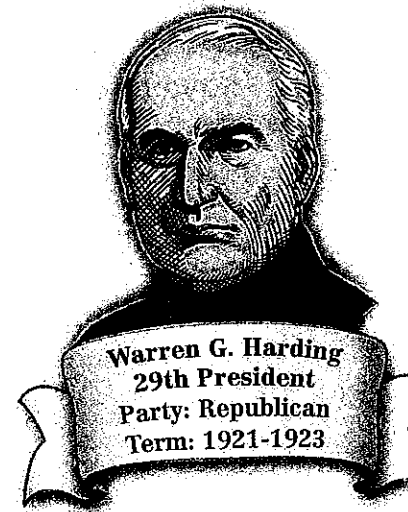
Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge, two very different men, took office as president and vice president in 1921. Harding was tall, handsome, and likeable, but he had spent most of his time as a senator doing favors for friends back home in Ohio. Coolidge was a strict, conservative New Englander. He became famous when, as a governor of Massachusetts, he broke up a Boston police strike by calling in the National Guard. "There is no right to strike against the public safety," he declared, "by anyone, anywhere, any time."

Harding probably won the presidency because he promised a return to "normalcy" after World War I. He was opposed to the League of Nations, but he called for the Washington Disarmament Conference. There, the United States and other nations agreed to reduce the size of their navies.

Harding preferred gambling, drinking, and playing golf to work. He gave friends from Ohio jobs in Washington, D.C. Many of them were without ability; others were careless of their duties. The press called them the "Ohio Gang." Three years into his term, Harding died suddenly, probably from a heart attack. After Harding's death, many scandals became known publicly, including the Teapot Dome scandal in which the secretary of the interior was found guilty of accepting over \$3 million in bribes to rent government land to oil drillers.

*Coolidge
spoke so
little he
was called
"Silent Cal."*

Calvin Coolidge was an honest president. He made government more efficient and economical. He did not believe government should interfere in private business, even though people seemed to be gambling on the stock market. "The business of America is business," he declared. Coolidge served the remainder of Harding's term plus one of his own. He retired a few months before the stock market crashed in 1929, leading to the worst economic depression in U.S. history.



Warren G. Harding

Born: November 2, 1865
Birthplace: Blooming Grove, Ohio
Political Party: Republican
State Represented: Ohio
Term: March 4, 1921–August 2, 1923
Died: August 2, 1923
Vice President: Calvin Coolidge (D)

Vice President: Calvin Coolidge (D)



Warren G. Harding began his working career at the newspaper, the *Marion Daily Star* in Marion, Ohio. Later, Harding became the director of many local Ohio businesses and joined many clubs. Harding participated in Republican Party campaigns and made many political friends. In 1920, the Republicans nominated Harding to be their candidate. When Harding was elected president in 1921, he appointed many of his friends from Ohio. They were called the "Ohio Gang." In office, Harding worked hard to make a budget system for the federal government and to reduce the number of immigrants to the United States. Unfortunately, the Ohio Gang blackened the Harding presidency. Some of these men were dishonest and there were many scandals. In the "Teapot Dome Scandal," federal oil reserves were illegally rented to private businesses. President Harding was not involved, but he was criticized for putting his friends in office. Harding died in the second year of his term.

★ SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Complete each sentence. Write your answers on the lines.

In the _____ Scandal, federal oil reserves were illegally leased to private businesses.

Harding started out by working on a _____

Harding's political work mates were called the _____

Harding tried to reduce the number of _____ entering the United States.

The 1920 election was the first general election where _____ could vote.

The election results were broadcast on _____

FIND OUT MORE

Harding was elected after what "great" war?

Calvin Coolidge

Born: July 4, 1872

Birthplace: Plymouth, Vermont

Political Party: Republican

State Represented: Massachusetts

Term: August 3, 1923–March 3, 1929

Died: January 5, 1933

Vice President: (1) vacant

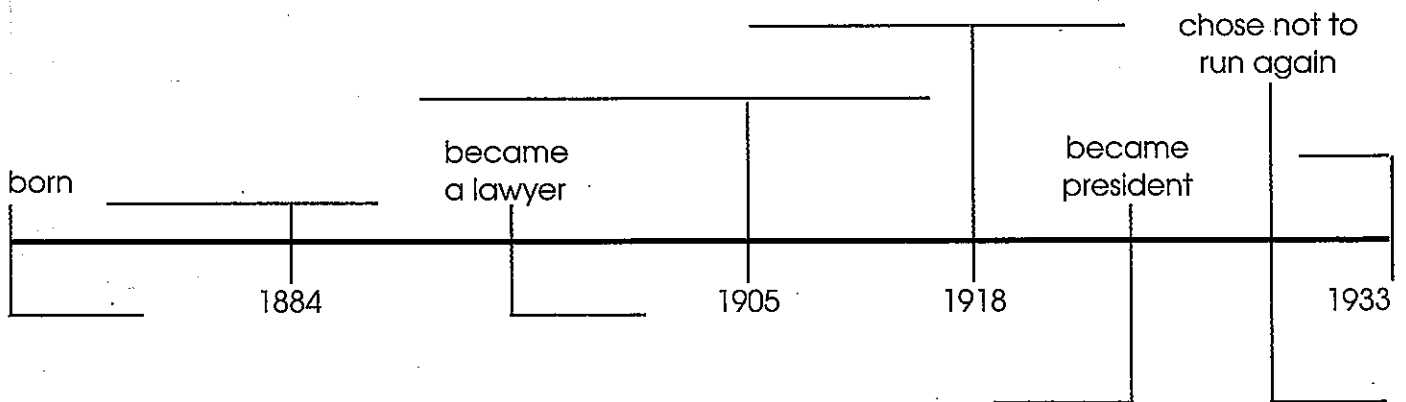
© Charles Dawes III (R)



Calvin Coolidge had experienced tragedy early in his life. Calvin's mother died when he was 12 years old. As a young man, Coolidge attended Amherst College. He graduated and became a lawyer in Massachusetts in 1897. Coolidge was involved in politics when he married Grace Goodhue in 1905. Coolidge was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1918 and stopped a police strike the following year. This earned him national attention. Coolidge was nominated for vice president and became president after Harding's death. Coolidge successfully dealt with the scandals left behind by President Harding. He restored honesty to the government. Coolidge believed that government should not interfere with private business. He vetoed bills for farm relief and a bonus for World War I veterans. He also believed that America should not get involved with other nations. Coolidge chose not to run for another term in 1928. He died in 1933.

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Complete the time line with either the date or the event.

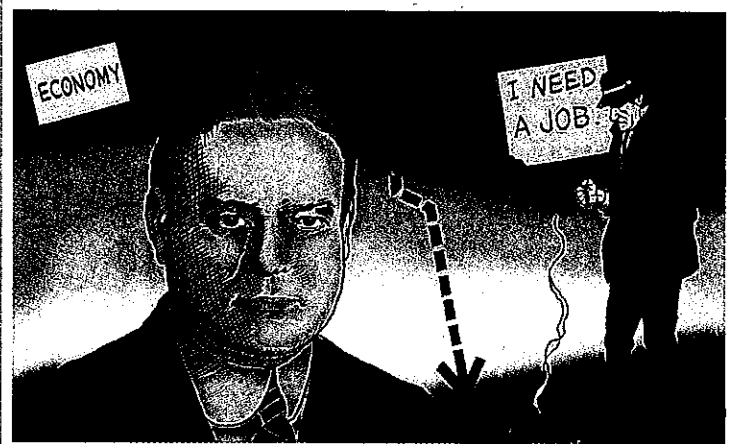


FIND OUT MORE

The first winter Olympics were held during Coolidge's term as president. Where and when were they held? Did the United States attend? _____

Herbert C. Hoover

Born: August 10, 1874
Birthplace: West Branch, Iowa
Political Party: Republican
State Represented: California
Term: March 4, 1929-March 3, 1933
Died: October 20, 1964
Vice President: Charles Curtis (R)



Herbert C. Hoover was an orphan before he was 9 years old. Then, he was raised by several relatives. Hoover attended Stanford University and graduated as a mining engineer. After college, Hoover was known for his work as the head of the Allied Relief Program in Europe during World War I. Hoover then joined the political world and served under Presidents Wilson, Harding and Coolidge. In 1921, Hoover became secretary of commerce. In office, he worked to improve the standards of radio broadcasting, aviation, housing and highway safety. Hoover was elected president in 1929. Soon after his election, the stock market crashed. This caused the Great Depression. Many people lost their jobs. Some people became homeless. President Hoover felt that the government should not help the public. Instead, he believed that charities should help the poor. Under Hoover's leadership, the Depression got worse. Hoover lost the 1932 election by a landslide vote.

★ SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Answer the following questions, then circle the answers in the word search.

Where Hoover went to college _____

Hoover's wife's name (2 words) _____

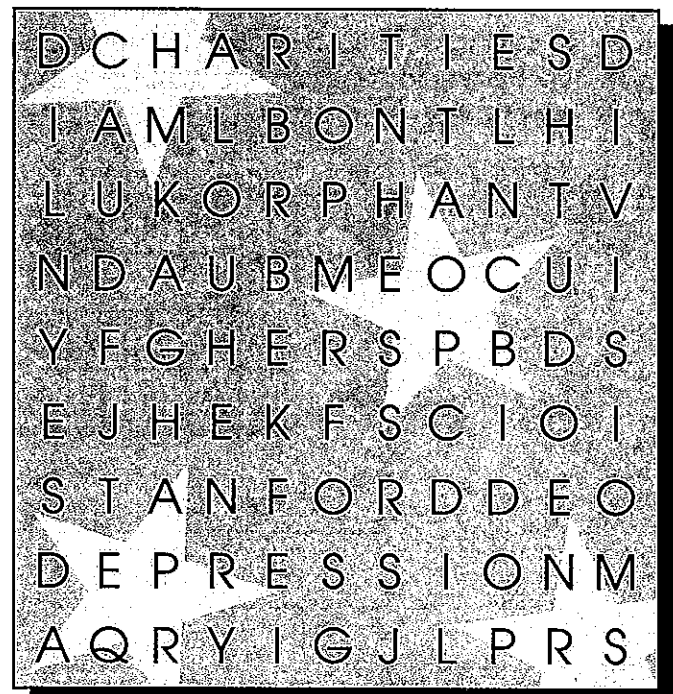
The crash of the stock market caused this
The Great _____

Hoover was this by the age of nine _____

Hoover felt that these groups should help
the poor _____

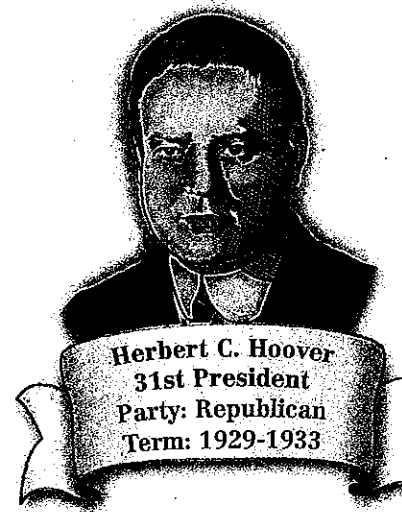
★ FIND OUT MORE

What famous dam is named after President Hoover? Where is this dam located? _____



Herbert C. Hoover (1874-1964)

Herbert Hoover was perhaps most remarkable for all the things he did when he was not president. By profession, he was a mining engineer, educated in the first class at Stanford University in California. As a young man, he managed mines all over the world and became very wealthy. Hoover was living in London when World War I began, and he organized a committee to help his fellow Americans get home from Europe. Soon he was heading the Commission for Relief in Belgium, which helped distribute aid in war-torn Europe.



President Wilson took advantage of Hoover's experience, making him the wartime U.S. food administrator, responsible for getting Americans to save food so more would be available for the troops. Then, after World War I, Hoover headed a council to distribute food to the hungry in Europe.

By this time, Hoover was so well known that President Harding named him secretary of commerce. He did so much for the country that people called him "Undersecretary of Everything Else." Hoover was untouched by the scandals of Harding's administration.

In 1928, Hoover was elected president—his first elective office. Just seven months into his presidency, the Great Depression struck. About a quarter of all Americans were out of work; many were homeless and hungry. Hoover increased government loans to banks and businesses and supported some public works projects, but he did not think it was right for government to give aid to poor people or create jobs with borrowed money. He was afraid that would destroy the individual American's drive to succeed. Although he had not created the conditions that led to the economic troubles, Hoover was blamed for the depression. At the end of his term, he was defeated in a landslide.

Hoover continued to help others after he left office. In 1946, President Truman made Hoover chairman of the Famine Emergency Commission in Europe. He later worked on two different commissions to help make government more efficient.

**Read the clues about Herbert C. Hoover and his presidency.
Then complete the puzzle using the word list on the next page.**

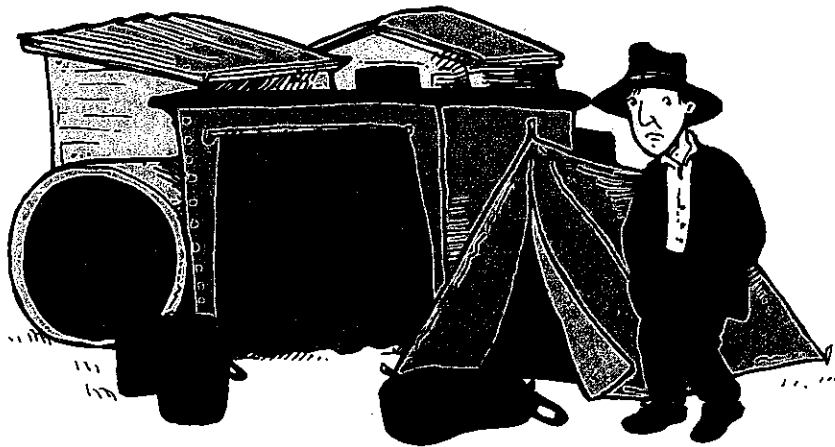
Across

3. Hoover headed Belgium's Commission for ____.
4. Word used for camps of the poor and unemployed during the depression
5. Term for a big election win
6. Mass hunger; Hoover helped fight this in Europe
8. Hoover trained for this profession in college.

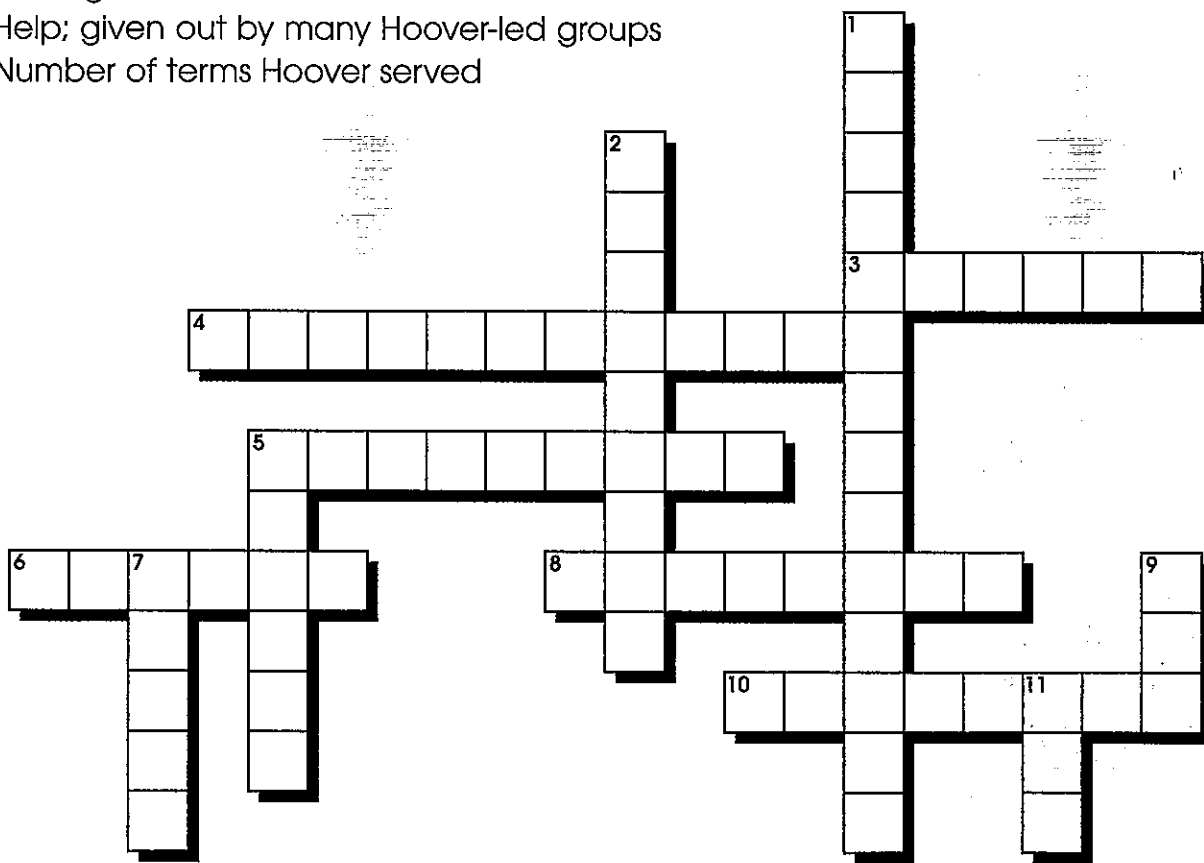
10. University Hoover attended

Down

1. As secretary of commerce, Hoover was called "_____ of Everything Else."
2. The last commissions Hoover served on were supposed to make government more_____.
5. British city where Hoover lived for a time
7. As a young man, Hoover managed these.
9. Help; given out by many Hoover-led groups
11. Number of terms Hoover served



The tent and shack cities of the unemployed during the Great Depression were called "Hoovervilles."



Word List

AID
EFFICIENT
ENGINEER

FAMINE
HOOVERVILLES
LANDSLIDE

LONDON
MINES
ONE

RELIEF
STANFORD
UNDERSECRETARY